
SENATE BILL 6882

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/31/08. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing a flood mitigation plan for the upper
2 Chehalis subbasin; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that recent storm
6 events, including flooding and high winds, have affected significant
7 areas of western Washington. In particular, the people, resources, and
8 economy of the upper Chehalis subbasin now face great challenges as a
9 result of the recent storm.

10 The upper Chehalis subbasin drains approximately four hundred fifty
11 square miles, and is located in Lewis, Pacific, and Cowlitz counties.
12 Lands within the upper Chehalis subbasin are primarily utilized for
13 forestry, agriculture, and for residences. The forest lands are
14 primarily located in the uplands, with agricultural areas concentrated
15 in the river valleys. The residential areas are concentrated along
16 highway 6 and include such communities as Adna, Boistfort, Dryad, Doty,
17 and Pe Ell.

18 As the private individuals and organizations, the federal and state
19 governments, and local governments address storm damages and mitigation

1 at the regional level, the legislature intends to help facilitate a
2 collaborative process to develop a flood mitigation plan for the upper
3 Chehalis subbasin.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The upper Chehalis subbasin flood
5 mitigation planning work group is established. The Washington state
6 conservation commission shall convene and staff the work group.
7 Representation on the work group must include:

- 8 (a) Appropriate county legislative authorities and agencies;
- 9 (b) Appropriate city representatives;
- 10 (c) Appropriate community representatives;
- 11 (d) Agricultural interests;
- 12 (e) Forestry interests;
- 13 (f) Conservation and environmental interests;
- 14 (g) The department of fish and wildlife;
- 15 (h) The department of natural resources;
- 16 (i) The department of ecology;
- 17 (j) The department of agriculture;
- 18 (k) The department of transportation;
- 19 (l) The Washington military department, emergency management
20 division; and
- 21 (m) Appropriate federal agencies, tribes, and other appropriate
22 representatives invited by the work group.

23 (2) The work group shall work collaboratively to develop a flood
24 mitigation plan for the upper Chehalis subbasin in order to avoid and
25 minimize impacts from future flood events. In conducting its work, the
26 work group must consider other recent and ongoing flood damage and
27 mitigation processes and efforts. The work group must discuss and
28 develop recommendations for the legislature, work group participants,
29 other public and private entities, and landowners, including:

- 30 (a) Steps for mitigating flood impacts appropriate for immediate
31 implementation, which include steps that may be implemented within one
32 year of the work group's initial report to the legislature;
- 33 (b) Steps for mitigating flood impacts appropriate for longer-term
34 development and implementation;
- 35 (c) Incentives for implementation; and
- 36 (d) Funding sources for mitigating flood impacts.

1 (3) The work group must attempt to hold work sessions at a variety
2 of locations within the upper Chehalis subbasin, and must accept input
3 from the public.

4 (4) By December 1, 2008, the Washington state conservation
5 commission must provide a summary of the work group's initial
6 activities and recommendations. By December 1, 2009, the Washington
7 state conservation commission must provide a summary of the work
8 group's activities and final recommendations, including a
9 recommendation whether the expiration date for the work group should be
10 extended.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 1, 2010.

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